

Remarks

In the non-final Office Action mailed June 6, 2008, claims 1-30 are pending and claims 1-4, 7-14, and 17-24 stand rejected. Claims 5, 6, 15, 16, 25, and 26 are objected to. The Applicants have amended claims 1, 11-12, 15, 22, and 24 and have cancelled claims 6, 16, and 26.

Objections to the claims with allowable subject matter

The Examiner objected to claims 5, 6, 15, 16, 25 and 26 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. The Applicants have incorporated claims 6, 16, and 26 into base claims 1, 11, and 24 respectively. The Applicants have cancelled claims 6, 16, and 26.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No.: 5,923,013 (Suzuki). The Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 11 by incorporating allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner from claims 6 and 16 respectively. The Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 11 are novel for at least including the allowable subject matter incorporated from claims 6 and 16 respectively. Dependent claim 12, which depends on allowable base claim 11, is novel for at least the same reason.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, 7-9, 13, 14, 21-24, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Suzuki in combination with U.S. Patent No.: 6,965,440 (Nakagiri). The Applicants have amended independent claim 21 by incorporating allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner from claim 26. The Applicants submit that independent claim 21 is non-obvious for at least including the allowable subject matter incorporated from claim 26. Dependent claims 22-24, and 27, which depend on allowable base claim 21, are non-obvious for at least the same reasons. Dependent claims 3, 4, and 7-9 are non-obvious for at least the reasons

provided for claim 1. Dependent claims 13 and 14 are non-obvious for at least the reasons provided for claim 11.

Conclusion

The Applicants submit that claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-25, and 27-30 are allowable for at least the reasons provided above and therefore respectfully request the Examiner allow claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-25, and 27-30.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 8, 2008

/Sean J. Varley/

Sean J. Varley, Reg. No. 62,397
Duft, Bornsen & Fishman, LLP
1526 Spruce Street, Suite 302
Boulder, CO 80302
(303) 786-7687
(303) 786-7691 (fax)